



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDER, MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND
214 CHARLES MORRIS CT SE
WASHINGTON NAVY YARD DC 20380-3500

IN REPLY REFER TO

5730
Ser N02/ 000837
28 OCT 2011

The Honorable Edward R. Royce
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0540

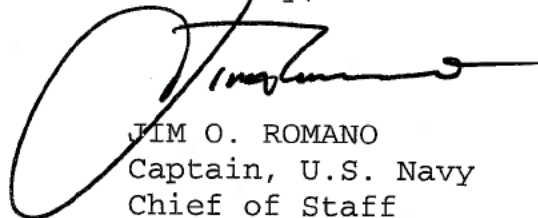
Dear Representative Royce:

This letter is in response to your letter of October 14, 2011 to Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus regarding the possible deployment of a hospital ship to Libya for humanitarian assistance. I am responding on behalf of the Secretary.

Under current policy, the deployment of a hospital ship requires the approval of the Secretary of Defense. Department of Defense (DoD) has received a request from Department of State to deploy a hospital ship to Libya. DoD is considering all available options to provide assistance. I want to assure you that if the decision is made to deploy one of the Navy's two hospital ships, we will have the selected vessel fully prepared to carry out its assigned mission.

I trust that you will find this information helpful. Should you or your staff have additional questions, please contact (b) (6) (b) (6), Congressional Liaison, Military Sealift Command, at (b) (6).

Sincerely,



JIM O. ROMANO
Captain, U.S. Navy
Chief of Staff